[XXXVIth YEAR.] THE [No. 1767.]

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1780.

by his excellency Sir HENRY CLINTON, knight of the moſt honourable order of the bath, general and commander in chief of all his majeſty's forces, within the colonies lying on the Atlantic ocean, from Nova-Scotia to Weſt-Florida, inclusive, &c. &c. &c.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS there are ſeveral deſerters from the Britiſh and foreign troops under my command, who are ſerving with the enemy, or are concealed in the rebel country; I have thought fit to iſſue this my proclamation, offering a free and unlimited pardon to all ſuch deſerters, who ſhall ſurrender themſelves to any of his majeſty's troops before the firſt day of November next.

And whereas there are many of his majeſty's European ſubjects at this time ſerving in the rebel army againſt their king and country, who being with remorſe, and ſenſible of the heinouſneſs of ſuch an unnatural proceeding, would be anxious to return to their allegiance, did not their demerits, before their arrival in America, make them doubtful of meeting with protection and ſupport within theſe lines.—I do therefore hereby promiſe to all ſuch who ſhall come in before the abovementioned firſt of November, in addition to the benefits, protection and ſupport, to which they would be entitled under any other proclamations, to procure for them his majeſty's moſt gracious pardon, for all felonies and treaſons (murder excepted) which they have heretofore been guilty of, provided they will take up arms in his ſervice, and give their aſſiſtance to the quelling this unnatural rebellion againſt his government.

Given under my hand at head-quarters, in New-York, this 23d day of September, 1780.

H. CLINTON.

By his excellency's command,

JOHN SMITH.

THE above proclamation of Sir Henry Clinton's is taken word for word from Rivington's New-York paper of October 25, 1780, and we may now challenge all the records of the moſt licentious banditti, to produce its equal.

The firſt paragraph we admit.

But in the ſecond Sir Harry turns a recruiting ſergeant, and that his ſpeech may have all the ſwelling oratory it deſerves, I have put it into a true ſtile and meaning, viz.

"All you gentlemen volunteers, who have been tranſported from England for picking of pockets, houſe-breaking, horſe-ſtealing, ſheep-ſtealing, perjury, high-way robbery, and ſtreet robbery—All you who ought to have been hanged, and are not hanged—All you who deſerve to be hanged, and will yet be hanged—All you who are too bad to live and not fit to die—All you whom the laws of your country ſent for baniſhment for being rogues and thieves, come and ſhake hands with his moſt gracious majeſty—Come and join the royal ſtandard of Great-Britain—Come and aſſiſt the great pickpocket of England, George the third, to pick the pocket of all America. And I do promiſe you, in addition to the benefits, protection and ſupport you are entitled to under any other proclamation, to procure for you his majeſty's moſt gracious pardon for all the crimes and felonies for which you were tranſported, upon condition that from being thieves, you will turn devils, and join George the third."

Now, Sir Harry, ſir, you feel no ſhame, no confuſion of heart, or embarraſſment of countenance in thus expoſing the wretchedneſs of your cauſe. We know it is a bad one, and that none but pickpockets will join it; but are you not a fool to tell it yourſelf? How will you look in the eyes of Europe? How will you appear in your country, when it ſhall be read under the ſanction of your own name, that you are courting to your aſſiſtance the outcaſts of your own nation, baniſhed by your own laws, and by thoſe very laws puniſhed with death if they return. Here they have committed no crime, but againſt you and your laws only they are criminals.

Have you not publiſhed to Europe, have you not impoſed upon your own nation, that the *good* and *virtuous* in America were your friends? That thoſe *good* and *virtuous* were flocking to your ſtandard; aiding your councils, and ſtrengthening your arms!—And now it appears that thoſe *good* and *virtuous*, O ſhame to your cauſe, are the pickpockets of London, the outcaſt of St. Giles's, the ſcourings of Rag-Fair, and the ſcum of Moorfields.

O! what a fine market the tories have driven their hogs to—O! ſhame to human nature—Your friends, your worthy friends, who were not convicts, are now to keep company with tranſported pickpockets, foot-pads, houſe-breakers, horſe-ſtealers, ſheep-ſtealers, highway robbers and ſtreet robbers, and all this under the royal authority of Great-Britain.

Why, gentlemen tories, lady tories, gentlemen quakers, and gentlemen who are not quakers, do feel a little dignity for yourſelves; do be above jacks of the mint, and moll trollops, for if one of you ſtir after this, by the lord, all the world will ſay, that you went in conſequence of this proclamation for vagabonds.

COMUS.

RICHMOND, *Nov.* 11.

An intercepted letter taken by one of our out poſts from a perſon in diſguiſe.

Portſmouth, (Virginia) Nov. 4, 1780.

MY LORD,

I HAVE been near a week eſtabliſhing a poſt. I wrote to you to Charles-town, and by another meſſenger by land alſo. I cannot hear for a certainty where you are. I wait your orders. The bearer is to be handſomely rewarded if he brings me any note or mark from your lordſhip. A. L.

Lord Cornwallis.

Major Ferguſon's addreſs to the inhabitants of North-Carolina, dated Denard's ford, Broad river, Tryon county, Oct. 1, 1780.

"GENTLEMEN

"UNLESS you wiſh to be eat up by an inundation of barbarians, who have begun, by murdering the unarmed ſon before the aged father, and afterwards lopped off his arms, and who by their ſhocking cruelty and irregularities, give the beſt proof of their cowardice and want of diſcipline: I ſay, if you wiſh to be pinioned, robbed, or murdered, and to ſee your wives and daughters in four days, abuſed by the dregs of mankind; in ſhort, if you wiſh or deſerve to live and bear the name of man, graſp your arms in a moment and run to camp. The Backwatermen have croſſed the mountain, M'Dowell, Hampton, Shelby, and Cleveland, are at their head, ſo that you know what you have to depend upon. If you chooſe to be piſſed upon for ever and ever, by a ſet of Mongrels, ſay ſo at once, and let your women turn their backs upon you and look out for real men to protect them.

PAT. FERGUSON, major 71ſt regt."

PHILADELPHIA, *Nov.* 14.

We are happy to inform the public, and particularly the relatives of the unfortunate gentlemen who have been ſo long detained priſoners within the enemy's poſts, that an exchange of priſoners has at length taken place, whereby all our privates who have been confined at New-York, and upwards of two hundred officers, are liberated; a few officers only now remain, for whom there were not ſimilar ranks among the Britiſh priſoners to apply.

An account was yeſterday received, that a ſhip is lately arrived at Boſton, which ſailed from Europe in company with a French fleet of eight ſail of the line, &c. deſtined for America. The above ſhip parted with the fleet in the latitude of Bermuda.

IN CONGRESS, *Oct.* 4, 1780.

Reſolved, That the board of war be and hereby are directed to eraſe from the regiſter of the names of the officers of the army of the United States the name of BENEDICT ARNOLD.

November 3.

WHEREAS, congreſs have received information, that John Paulding, David Williams and Iſaac Vanwert, three young volunteer militiamen of the ſtate of New-York, did on the 23d of September laſt intercept major John Andrie, adjutant-general of the Britiſh army, on his return from the American lines in the character of a ſpy; and, notwithſtanding the large bribes offered them for his releaſe, nobly diſdaining to ſacrifice their country for the ſake of gold, ſecured and conveyed him to the commanding officer of the diſtrict, whereby the dangerous and traiterous conſpiracy of Benedict Arnold was brought to light, the inſidious deſigns of the enemy baffled, and the United States reſcued from impending danger.

Reſolved, That congreſs have a high ſenſe of the virtuous and patriotic conduct of the ſaid JOHN PAULDING, DAVID WILLIAMS and ISAAC VANWERT.

In teſtimony whereof,

ORDERED, That each of them receive annually out of the public treaſury two hundred dollars in ſpecie, or an equivalent in the current money of theſe ſtates, during life; and that the board of war be directed to procure for each of them a ſilver medal, on one ſide of which ſhall be a ſhield with this inſcription, "*fidelity*, and on the other the following motto, "*vincit amor patriæ*," and forward them to the commander in chief, who is requeſted to preſent the ſame, with a copy of this reſolution, and the thanks of congreſs for their fidelity, and the eminent ſervice they have rendered their country.

Extract from the minutes,

CHARLES THOMSON, Sec.

An ESSAY on the FREEDOM of SPEECH.

THE ſurpriſing changes and improvements that have of late years been wrought in the various purſuits of mankind, as well in matters of common civil intercourſe, as in the more important ſubjects of ſcience, and true morals, have contributed ſo much to the eaſe and convenience of converſation and company, by rendering men more open and unreſerved, and by freeing the mind from that reſtraint, which a licentiouſneſs of cenſure and ſuppoſed abuſe will ever impoſe upon a generous nature, are ſo apparent, and have been attended with ſuch ſalutary conſequences, that a perſon of the leaſt diſcernment muſt inſtantly perceive the vaſt acceſſion which is thereby gained to the glorious cauſe of general liberty. That this change ſhould be now accompliſhed, is not ſo ſurpriſing, as that an improvement ſo obvious and intereſting, and of ſuch neceſſary concern to human affairs, ſhould be ſo long neglected, or have baffled the efforts of every undertaker. The man, who adventures upon a reformation of manners, who endeavours to ſet up rules to regulate the intercourſe of men upon the principles of decency and reſpect, will often prove a mere ſpeculatiſt; though approved in theory, his doctrine will have little influence on practice. The reformation muſt ſpring from another ſource; there muſt be a general tendency to ſuch obſervances; this is often effected by example, but ſeldom accompliſhed by precept. Every friend to ſociety and ſocial communication will agree with me, that there cannot be a greater bleſſing in a community than examples of this kind; eſpecially when they proceed from thoſe who are reputed, as the common expreſſion is, of the better ſort; thoſe, who from their ſituation in life, their official diſtinction in ſociety, education, or from ſome other cauſe, which gives them weight with obſervers, are commonly eſteemed the ſtandard of faſhion and propriety. Gentlemen in theſe circumſtances give the tone to converſation, their authority is quoted on all occaſions, and their practice is a deciſion without appeal.

A celebrated author obſerves, that the manners and ſpirit of a nation are confined to, and to be collected from, the few, who feed, employ, and give laws to the many. This, though a poſition not altogether conſiſtent with the idea of an univerſally free government, is however the real caſe of every one, and we have no reaſon to lament that the principle has ſo much influence in ours. The virtues and refined behaviour of the few who feed, employ, and give laws to the many, to uſe the expreſſions of that author, are a ſufficient ſecurity of the true conſtitutional demeanour, and the decent and moſt reſpectful

conduct of every subject of the state. Our happiness in this particular is scarcely to be paralelled; What satisfaction must every truly good citizen feel, when he reflects on this our prosperous situation? When he considers the force of virtue and dignity, united with station and character, and the effects which do necessarily result from so happy a combination? By the influence of these, the difficulties which have hitherto obstructed a free declaration of sentiments on the most important occasions, are now happily removed. Liberty of speech hath taken place of formal punctilio, and expressions, which have heretofore been falsely deemed illiberal and abusive, have received the sanction of high breeding and refined taste; nay, what is infinitely more valuable, they have been proved to be the genuine, essential offspring of a constitution founded in freedom, and the very perfection of liberty and independence.

Providence, who furnished man with the power of speech as well as of thought, has been profusely bountiful in each particular. The moral law, which, as set forth in its long established system, hath been weakly supposed to have been intended as a restraint on both, is in most instances the mere creature of human invention, evidently calculated to abridge and despoil us of those most inestimable gifts of nature.

In the formation of societies those natural rights alone are given up, or are afterwards subject to be taken from individuals, which in any manner impede, or do destroy the good and well being of the whole. To deprive a single citizen of a right, which is not necessarily conducive to that end, is a manifest injury; it is an act subversive of the very purposes for which societies were formed, and therefore not to be exercised in any community. I speak in the language of freedom, and not of precedent. I am aware that many instances may be adduced against me of extraordinary exertions of power, and these supported by specious reasonings, in governments which have been reputed the most free, and in which the rights of the subject have in other cases been guarded, and preserved with the utmost vigilance and steadiness. But these instances serve rather to prove some original defect in the institution, or a vicious administration of such governments, than a right in them to interfere in or diminish the natural inalienable freedom of the subject.

It is a matter worthy of observation, that the first efforts of tyranny have ever been accompanied with attempts to destroy the important privilege of speech. The voice of an injured indignant complainant is grating to the ears of the oppressor. It becomes his interest to stifle the clamour, that his security may not be endangered by a publication of his oppressions. I know there are some men who think, and they allege amongst the rest custom and precedent in support of their opinion, that this right, like all other human privileges, is circumscribed, and confined within certain limits, and that all beyond these is unwarrantable excess. But custom and precedent require a foundation in reason. If they want this support, their authority will have little weight with a free and thinking mind; and what reasons can justify and support a doctrine of such a nature?

Those governments which have endeavoured to impose restraints upon the freedom of the mind, have ever been deservedly esteemed the most slavish and despotic. Next to these may be ranked such as aim at a restraint on the liberty of the tongue. In the first instance the natural rights of men have seldom been called in question, or violated, except in matters of religion, where priests and fanatics have always claimed a privilege to domineer. In civil cases there are few instances of it. But what is even this great, this boasted right, if not united with the other. The very purposes for which they were both evidently intended, would be frustrated by a separation. That a man is free to think what he pleases, is a position founded in nature and reason; that he is also free to express his thoughts in what terms, on what occasions, and about what persons it may suit his humour to speak, is an undeniable consequence of the above maxim; for were it not so, of what avail would his former right be? It would be in most cases useless and unnecessary. Instead of an advantage, it would often prove a burden and a torment. There is a maxim with divines, that Providence hath made nothing in vain. To deny the truth of the foregoing positions, is little less than to arraign the merit and perfection of her noblest work.

Some men will think I have gone too far in asserting this right in so extensive a latitude. Although the strict laws of nature may justify the exercise of it in its full extent, nay may seem to require it, yet the established rules of decency do certainly forbid a too liberal use of it. Here again I have to encounter prejudice, not reason. I am sensible there are certain terms in every language appropriated to the use of the vulgar. Custom hath confirmed their title to them, and it is deemed an infringement of their privileges in a person of higher breeding to assume a title esteemed unquestionably theirs. But happily this prejudice is in a fair way of being removed. A defect in their title of exclusive use hath lately been discovered, and the practice of gentlemen of the first distinction and character will soon defeat the ill-founded claim of immemorial custom.

There is another mistaken notion, which prevails amongst men of a peculiar cast, and is insisted on by them with much earnestness and warmth. They assert that there is a certain respect due to all public bodies; that in speaking of them, it is highly improper, and unjustifiable, to make use of what are stiled abusive, injurious expressions; expressions that may tend to lessen their consequence and authority. The reasons given in opposition to the right of uttering our sentiments in this case with the same freedom, we may do in others, are curious, though I must confess not new. It is pretended, that the authority and energy of all public bodies of the deliberative kind, particularly legislative, depend upon their reputation for wisdom and integrity; that the confidence reposed in them, and the obedience paid to them, are ever proportioned to the supposed prevalence of these qualities: therefore an attempt of any kind to injure their character in these particulars, is a blow aimed at the very root of their power and existence; and that as there is a constitutional necessity for their endeavouring to continue their being and authority, in order to effect the purposes for which they were instituted, there is consequently an inherent right in them to enquire into, and by any means that may appear to them necessary, to prevent the effects of any attempts that have been or may be made, to diminish their authority, or that may in their consequences tend to that end. The opinions of sages in politics and law are cited to support this doctrine, and the absolute necessity of the thing urged in the the most pressing terms and manner.

But how feeble are such arguments? The opinions of men however distinguish'd by their abilities, learning, and candour, however they may be venerated on account of their antiquity, and the respect which hath been shewn them in all ages, and by all orders of men, may nevertheless be erroneous. The mere possibility of this is a proof that they are so, when contrary sentiments begin generally to prevail in a more enlightened age, and amongst men of more enlarged understandings. It is not my intention to compliment the present times, and the present generation. It is an acknowledgement due to their abundant merit; and I am sincerely of opinion, if we continue in the present rapid course of improvement in political matters, the science of politics will in a short time receive the finishing stroke of perfection. All that can be imagin'd, or said on the subject, will be exhausted. New principles, new reasonings adopted, and the whole system essentially altered. The uncommon advantages that must necessarily flow from a change so favourable to liberty, will quickly be experienced by all ranks of men, and government, which has heretofore been esteemed at best a necessary evil, will assume a new appearance, and be acknowledged as the choicest gift of Heaven.

Jam redit & virgo, redeunt Saturnia regna,
Jam nova progenies cœlo demittitur alto.

Such will be the happy consequences of an universal, unrestrained freedom of speech.

I do not know that I can better illustrate the foregoing remarks, than by referring my readers to the celebrated memoirs of the renowned P. P. parish clerk. They will there find the immense advantages the kingdom of Great-Britain derived from the lucubrations of a club of worthy statesmen who dared to think for themselves, and to speak their minds with a manly freedom; and although the parliament at first took umbrage at their behaviour which they termed licentious, they afterwards recanted, and did them the justice to acknowledge their profound skill in matters of state; of this they were so well convinced, say the memoirs, that whatever P. P and his club afterwards devised, even that did they. This instance evinces the utility, as well as right, of delivering our sentiments without reserve, or respect of persons; for had it not been done in this remarkable case, Great-Britain would for ever have lost the services of [illegible] P. P. and his club, and were it possible that the same principle would not prevail amongst us, even this state might also run the hazard of losing the services of some future P. P. and his worthy associates.

ETEOCLES.

By his EXCELLENCY
THOMAS SIM LEE, Esq
GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND,
A PROCLAMATION.

AT the request of the General Assembly of this state, I do hereby appoint Thursday the seventh day of December next, to be observed throughout this state as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, agreeably to the recommendation contained in the annexed act of congress.

GIVEN at Annapolis, this eleventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty.

THO. SIM LEE.

By his EXCELLENCY's command,
T. JOHNSON, junior, sec.

GOD SAVE THE STATE.

PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS it hath pleased Almighty God, the Father of all mercies, amidst the vicissitudes and calamities of war, to bestow [illegible] on the people of these states, which call for their devout and thankful acknowledgments, more especially in the late remarkable interposition of his watchful providence in rescuing the person of our commander in chief and the army from imminent dangers, at the moment when treason was ripened for execution; in prospering the labours of the husbandmen, and causing the earth to yield its increase in plentiful harvests; and above all, in continuing to us the enjoyment of the gospel of peace:

It is therefore recommended to the several states to set apart Thursday the seventh day of December next, to be observed as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer; that all the people may assemble on that day to celebrate the praises of our Divine benefactor; to confess our unworthiness of the least of his favours, and to offer our fervent supplications to the God of all grace; that it may please him to pardon our heinous transgressions, and incline our hearts for the future to keep all his laws; to comfort and relieve our brethren who are any wise afflicted or distressed; to smile upon our husbandry and trade; to direct our public councils and lead our forces by land and sea to victory; to take our illustrious ally under his special protection, and to favour our joint councils and exertions for the establishment of speedy and permanent peace; to cherish all schools and seminaries of education, and to cause the knowledge of christianity to spread over all the earth.

Done in congress, this eighteenth day of October, 1780, and in the fifth year of the independence of the United States of America.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON, president.
Attest.
CHARLES THOMSON, secretary.

TO BE SOLD,
A LIKELY NEGRO WOMAN about thirty years of age, with two children, one nine years old, the other about two months. She is an exceeding good cook, cake and paste maker. Apply to G. Watkins at Mr. Ogle's plantation, near Annapolis. 1 tf

Prince-George's county, Nov. 16, 1780.
WILL be sold by the subscribers, to the highest bidder, on the the 30th instant, at Mr. Alexander H. Magruder's tavern, on Patuxent river, several hogsheads of crop tobacco, the money to be paid on the day of sale, at which time the notes will be delivered. All those who have any claims against the estate of Mr. George Gantt, late of Prince-George's county, deceased, are once more requested to bring them in properly authenticated, that they may be adjusted by
HANNAH GANTT, executrix
JAMES [illegible] executor
1 X

STOLEN out of the house of the subscriber, on Monday the 20th instant, a pair of elegant SHOE BUCKLES, inlaid with gold, of a large size, and of the newest fashion. A reward of one thousand dollars will be given to any person who will detect the thief, so that he or she may be brought to justice.
1 Pistole. PRICE MANN.

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